

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

PG:80-6
PG:80-6
RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Defenses of Washington (Civil War)

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Circle

*Federal Register title
Civil War Fort Sites*

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Location is widespread. Please see description for details. ☐ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
☐ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Washington D.C. and vicinity

VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

DC, MD, and VA

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☒ DISTRICT

☒ PUBLIC

☐ OCCUPIED

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ MUSEUM

☐ BUILDING(S)

☐ PRIVATE

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ COMMERCIAL

☒ PARK

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ BOTH

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ PRIVATE RESIDE

☒ SITE

☐ PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ ACCESSIBLE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ OBJECT

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ YES RESTRICTED

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

☒ YES UNRESTRICTED

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ MILITARY

☐ OTHER

4 AGENCY

Department of the Interior, National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Capital Parks

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

District of Columbia

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. National Capital Parks

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

District of Columbia

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

National Park Service survey in compliance with Executive Order 11593

DATE

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Capital Parks

CITY, TOWN

Washington

District of Columbia

STATE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Circle Park

1. Battery Kemble, completed during the Autumn of 1861, was named after Governor Kemble of Cold Spring, New York, former president of West Point Foundry, where most of the heavy Army and Navy guns were made during the Civil War. Battery Kemble is on the high point of land, 387 feet above mean low level of the Potomac, where it's guns could protect both Chain Bridge and Aqueduct Bridge. The earthwork remains of the battery are distinct and well-preserved.
2. Fort Bayard's earthwork remains are distinguishable with some effort, and consisted of an elliptical parapet wall with a perimeter of 123 yards, at the center of which a depression now marks the site of the powder magazine.
3. Fort Reno's earthwork remains have been obliterated.
4. Fort DeRussey is a small fort of just 190 yards around its hexagonal perimeter, occupies a very commanding position (354 feet above sea level) overlooking the deep valley of Rock Creek's Broad Branch, and was very heavily armed to control the valley and important roads to the west. It is very well preserved, with some evidence of the structure within the parapet walls.
5. Fort Stevens has been approximately one-third reconstructed (1930's), mainly out of concrete simulating wood. This most significant of all the Washington, D.C. forts, the only one to have seen any combat, had a perimeter of 375 yards. It is in good-to-excellent condition.
6. Fort Slocum's earthwork remains are indistinguishable.
7. Fort Totten, with a perimeter of 272 yards, is still a very well-preserved earthwork with important outlying rifle trenches. The interior of the parapet walls has well-preserved remains of magazines, bombproofs, and a stockade.
8. Fort Bunker Hill, on one of the highest pieces of ground in the District of Columbia was one of the smallest of the earthwork defenses of the capital, and was, because of the insufficiency, unappreciated by the military establishment, and soon after the war allowed to deteriorate. The barely-visible remains are on a steep knoll in a densely residential area of Washington.
9. Fort Lincoln, near the site of important action in the War of 1812, today is obliterated but one of its batteries can be seen on NPS land adjacent to the Maryland-D.C. boundary. Even that is minor.
10. Fort Mahan, with an original perimeter of 354 yards was a difficult problem from the beginning because of its location on a steep hillside. Although 400 yards of rifle pits were built, only about half remain, as well as about half the parapet and a prominent bastionet.
11. Fort Chaplin, 2500 feet directly South of Fort Mahan, is a smaller earthwork with a 225 yard perimeter, still largely intact, that is difficult to reach up a very steep hillside which is without road or pathway.
12. Fort Dupont, the small hexagonal fort named after the famous Admiral, is one of the most intact earthworks in the circle. No traces of any buildings can be seen, but the parapet outline is one of the most easily recognized.

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13. Fort Davis is another small fort near a major urban thoroughfare, with its parapet walls in good condition and pretty much intact. Fort Davis has a sally port in better condition than almost any other in the area. Whereas once, an officer's quarters, a mess house, and a guard house stood, nothing remains today.
14. Fort Stanton, built on a ridge 279.7 feet above the Potomac, commands one of the most splendid views of Washington. From these heights in Uniontown (Anacostia), the fort could protect the Washington Arsenal. Perhaps one-third of the original 322 foot perimeter walls remains today, but no evidence of the buildings which were a part of the fort. The rifle pits to the side of the parapet walls are among the best examples of that type structure in Washington.
15. Battery Ricketts is a nearly intact earthworks with a few trees growing in it now which take the place of buildings once occupying the center. It is a small earthworks of 123 yards around its perimeter.
16. Fort Carroll is a small fort remains beside a heavily trafficked roadway, and is partially intact but badly in need of cleaning out. No other structures stand in the littered ruins of this half-preserved old fort. Originally it had a parapet and ditch of 896 feet perimeter, much of the outline of which can still be picked out.
17. Fort Greble is one of the smallest of the historic remains of "The Defenses of Washington" and occupies the southernmost point of that plateau overlooking the Potomac and overlooking Oxen Run. Considered a powerful work with well-done magazines and bomb-proofs, Fort Greble's parapet wall consisted (and still consists) of an irregular octagonal shape of 327 yards, in generally good condition, now converted to a picnic area with picnic tables and carefully-manicured lawns.
18. Fort Foote was one of the largest fort areas in the defensive ring around Washington being located on the east bank of the Potomac at Rozier's Bluff, Prince Georges County, Maryland. It was a large complex of buildings and fortifications spreading over hundreds of acres. Today, the remains of the earthworks fort are in good condition. Foundations of barracks remain as well as the shell of an engineer's storehouse, a pathway, and an old wooden bridge.
19. Fort Marcy is located on the south (Virginia) side of the Potomac, not far from Chain Bridge. Today, it is reached by an access road from the westbound lanes of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Fort Marcy is located immediately west of that line which separates Arlington and Fairfax counties, the line which originally bounded the Northwest side of the District of Columbia. The Virginia section of the District of Columbia was given back to that state in 1846.

The Virginia approaches to the Chain Bridge were guarded, during the Civil War, by Fort Marcy on the old Leesburg Turnpike, and Fort Ethan Allen on Military Road. These two sites were occupied by Union troops on Sept. 24, 1861, and the earthworks completed in

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short order. Fort Marcy was named for Brigadier General Randolph Marcy, Chief of Staff for Major General George McClellan. It consisted of a polygonal earthworks fortification with a parapet wall surrounded by a deep trench. The armament consisted of 17 guns, with one platform vacant, and a number of mortars. The interior of the fort contained a barracks for the enlisted men, a pair of magazines, a well, and an officer's quarters building. Traces of only the well can be seen at the fort today, it being covered by a concrete slab for the protection of visitors. The earthen parapet walls of Fort Marcy are in generally good condition, being quite distinct. The trench is somewhat overgrown with both brush and trees. The greatest breadth of Fort Marcy's polygon is approximate 350 feet.

BOUNDARY: FORT CIRCLE PARK

There remain today some 19 National Park Service properties in the Washington, D.C. area which contain, within their limits, areas covered by the 1861-65 "Defenses of Washington" constructed hastily to protect the Union Capital from attack by the Confederates.

While this group of forts, batteries, and their remains to some extent represents the Civil War ring around the Capital, it should be pointed out that they comprise only a fraction of the original total and include only one in the state of Virginia where originally there had been more than a score.

1. Battery Kemble (just east of Chain Bridge Road and just south of Loughboro Road, N.W.)
2. Fort Bayard (on the D.C.-Md. boundary line, at Western Avenue and Fessenden Ave., N.W.)
3. Fort Reno (near Jct. of Nebraska Avenue and Fessenden Streets, N.W.)
4. Fort DeRussy (near junction of Military Road and Oregon Ave. in Rock Creek Park)
5. Fort Stevens (Jct. Piney Branch Rd., Quackenbos St. & 13th St., N.W.)
6. Fort Slocum (Kansas Ave. at Madison, 3rd, Nicholson & Oglethorpe, N.W.)
7. Fort Totten (Fort Totten Drive, N.E., just east of Bladensburg Road)
8. Fort Bunker Hill (Perry Street between 13th and 14th Streets, N.E.)
9. Fort Lincoln (at Eastern Ave., N.E., just east of Bladensburg Road)
10. Fort Mahan (Benning Road, just west of 42nd Street, N.E.)
11. Fort Chaplin (East Capitol Street at 41st Street, N.E.)
12. Fort DuPont (Just north of Alabama Ave., S.E., between Mass. Ave. and Ridge Road)
13. Fort Davis (Jct. Pennsylvania and Alabama Avenues, S.E.)
14. Fort Stanton (off Morris Road, S.E., Anacostia, Washington, D.C.)
15. Battery Ricketts (Bruce Place, S.E., Anacostia)
16. Fort Carroll (Jct. South Capitol St. & Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., S.E.)
17. Fort Greble (off Chesapeake Avenue, S.E.)
- 18. Fort Foote (on Potomac River at Rosier's Bluff, in Prince Georges County, Md., six miles south of Washington, one mile south of Alexandria)
19. Fort Marcy (between George Washington Memorial Parkway and Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax County, Va., just beyond the Arlington County line.

Form 10-300a
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1. Battery Kemble is located in Battery Kemble Park, just east of Chain Bridge Road and south of Loughboro Road. The historic area of the park is only a small fraction of the whole. The remains of Battery Kemble consist of earthworks only, and are located in the most western section of the park. This area constitutes a separate National Park Service reservation of 2.79 acres and is reservation #521. It begins c. 600 feet from the northern end of the park and continues to about 2000 feet from the northern end of the park. It is entirely within this western bulge that we find the historic remains of Battery Kemble, so that therefore, the boundary of the Historic zone in Battery Kemble park consists of only reservation #521.
2. Fort Bayard is another of those small parks whose historic remains cover the greatest portion of it. Consequently the historical zone of the park should be considered co-extensive with the park as a whole, bounded by Western Avenue, River Road, Fessenden Street, 46th and 47th Streets, N.W. No structures other than the earthwork remains stand in the park.
3. Fort Reno is located near the junction of Nebraska Avenue and Fessenden Streets in the Tenleytown area of the city. None of the structures associated with the Civil War fort remain. This park then can only be interpreted as "the site of" certain structures and events, and consequently, no historic area within the NPS land here need be defined. There is no historic area at Fort Reno.
4. Fort DeRussy is located entirely within Rock Creek Park, which of course is many times larger than the historic zone. The area of the historic resource is confined to that portion of Rock Creek Parkway immediately north and east of the junction of Oregon Avenue and Military Road, N.W. Specifically, the fort is reached by proceeding east for approximately a hundred yards along a bridle path which begins on the east side of Oregon Avenue at a point about 50 yards north of the junction of Oregon Avenue and Military Road. The remains of the fort lie just north of the bridle path c. 100 yards east of Oregon Avenue. The fort remains consist solely of earthworks at this one point. No batteries or outlying works are part of this historic resource, and no structures other than the earthwork remains contribute to the significance of the site. The Fort DeRussy site is bounded by including all of that land which lies within a 100 yard radius of the center of the fort. This will easily include all of the identified historic remains.
5. Fort Stevens is the most significant of the NPS Fort Circle Parks, and, during its historic period, certainly covered the area now owned by the Park Service. Partially rebuilt, the historic zone of Fort Stevens is now considered co-extensive with the whole of the park, that is, bounded by Quackenbos Avenue, 13th Street, Piney Branch Avenue, Rittenhouse Avenue, N.W., and Georgia Avenue. No structures other than those associated with Fort Stevens and its reconstructed elements contribute to the significance of the site.

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6. Fort Slocum: The historic remains at Fort Slocum Park are, for all intents and purposes, non-existent or obliterated, and therefore no need exists to specify a historic zone within the park.

7. Fort Totten is located just east and north of Fort Totten Drive and lies within a park approximately twice the area covered by the historic remains. A more-or-less circular drive enters and leaves the park from the east side of Fort Totten Drive at a point opposite Allison, Buchanan, and Crittenden Streets, which are on the west side of Fort Totten Drive. All of the historic remains of Fort Totten either lie within the circle or within 50 yards of the circumference of the circle, in the park. The historic zone within Fort Totten Park then shall consist of the area within the park enclosed by a circle drawn parallel to and 50 yards outside of the circular drive located opposite Allison Street.

8. Fort Bunker Hill is a small park bounded by Perry, Otis, 13th and 14th Streets, N.E. For all intents and purposes, the boundary of the historic resource at Fort Bunker Hill should be considered co-extensive with the boundary of the park itself. No structures other than the historic earthworks stand on the site.

9. Fort Lincoln is located just south and east of Bladensburg Road in the District of Columbia, adjacent to and just south of the Maryland line. It too is part of a somewhat larger NPS land-holding at this area and there is only a very limited historic resource at the site. The area designated as "Fort Lincoln" is one which is now being developed as an urban development area. The remains of the fort itself no longer exist, but a pair of batteries do, one on private land just across the Maryland line, in the Fort Lincoln Cemetery, the second adjacent to the line, in D.C., on NPS land, approximately 200 yards southeast of the point where Bladensburg Road crosses the Maryland-D.C. boundary line. The boundary of the historic zone then consists of the small space of perhaps one acre on which stands the earthwork remains of this one of Fort Lincoln's batteries. No other structures contribute to the significance of the historic resource area here at Fort Lincoln.

10. Fort Mahan is located immediately west of 42nd Street, S.E., and immediately north of Benning Road, S.E., on a broad promontory overlooking the Anacostia River. The historic earthwork remains are confined to the vicinity of the ridge line on the east and south sides. No structures other than the earthwork remains in these areas contribute to the historical significance of the site. The park is clearly broken, visually, into two areas, the inclined hillside and the flat plateau. The historic remains are confined to the hillside (rifle pits) and the point at the ridge where the two areas meet (Bastionet and Parapet). This is an L-shaped section of land 50 yards to either side of the ridge line which runs first North-South, parallel to 42nd Street, then East-West parallel to Benning Road.

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11. Fort Chaplin is located immediately south of East Capitol Street near 41st Street, S. The extent of the historic resource is less than the size of the whole park, so that a definition of a historic zone within the park is called for. All of the historic remains of Fort Chaplin lie within a 50 yard radius of the center of the fort, so that the boundary of the historic zone consists of a circle of 100 yards diameter, with the center point of the 50 yard radius located at the center of the fort's earthwork Parapet wall remains.

12. Fort DuPont is located just north of Alabama Avenue southeast, between Massachusetts Avenue and Ridge Road. This is an instance of a very large park containing a comparative small historic resource, although it is the one after which the entire park was named. Specifically, the site of the earthwork remains of Fort DuPont are located at the most extreme eastern end of the park just north of Alabama Avenue, three blocks west of the point where Alabama Avenue meets Ridge Road. The area of historic remains covers approximately two acres, and a historic zone may reasonably be ordained which includes only the historic resource. If the center of the fort is taken as a starting point and a straight line of twenty-five yards is drawn from that point and then used as the radius of a circle, we derive a boundary which includes all of the remains of the structure and no other structures than the earthworks and its marker.

13. Fort Davis is located at the junction of Pennsylvania and Alabama Avenues, S.E. Specifically, the earthwork remains of Fort Davis are located just south of the southeast corner of Pennsylvania and Alabama Avenues, and cover approximately two acres. No structures other than the earthwork remains of Fort Davis contribute to the historical significance of the site. The historic zone may be considered to lie within that area enclosed by a circle of two acres in area with the mid-point of its diameter corresponding to the center of the fort. The radius of the circle whose area is two acres is 526.4 feet. None of the remains of Fort Davis lie outside the boundary circle.

14. Fort Stanton is located off Morris Avenue, S.E., in the Anacostia section of Washington. It is adjacent to land owned by Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, and the new church community center just to the south. The remains of Fort Stanton itself are only a small portion of the whole Fort Stanton Park area. The remains of Fort Stanton, and therefore of the historic zone, are confined to an area of a square drawn as follows: 100 yards along the Fort Stanton Park - Our Lady of Perpetual Help School property boundary, so that 50 yards are to either side of the fort remains (which are right on the property boundary), a line equal in length and parallel to the property line, at a distance of 100 yards northeast of the Fort Stanton earthworks, and the two lines connected by parallel and perpendicular lines of equal length to the first two. This will serve to include all of the earthwork remains the rifle-pits just north of the earthworks. No other structures contribute to the significance of the historical area at Fort Stanton.

15. Battery Ricketts is located near Fort Stanton in the Anacostia section of Washington, D.C. Specifically, the earthwork remains of Battery Ricketts are located at the southwest

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corner of Bruce Place and Erie Street, S.E. The NPS park here is barely enough to contain the remains of the historic Battery, so that the historic zone should be considered co-extensive with the entire park. That area extends from the southwest corner of Bruce Place and Erie Street, further southwest to create a rough square of land of about one acre. No structures contribute to the historical significance of the site other than the earthwork remains of the Battery.

16. Fort Carroll is the closest of the fortification remains to Fort Greble and lies about 1/2 mile to the north of the latter, at the junction of Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue (Nichols Avenue) and South Capitol Street. It too, like Fort Greble, is in the Shepherd Parkway. The triangle of land on which the fort remains stand, is formed as follows, from the point on the northern side of the two streets mentioned above, where the crotch is formed: 1000 feet northeast on Nichols Ave., 1000 feet northwest on South Capitol, and thirdly, from the ends of those two lines, a third line of the shortest possible length, connecting the two and closing the triangle. No structures other than the earthwork remains contribute to the significance of Fort Carroll.

17. Fort Greble Park is located just off Chesapeake Avenue, S.E., in the Anacostia section of Washington. This is one of the smallest of the historic remains of "The Defenses of Washington" 1860-65. This section is immediately south of Chesapeake Avenue and runs as far south as Forrester Avenue. It fills in the area between Hadley Hospital on the east and the Anacostia Freeway on the west. It is a section of the Shepherd Parkway, which parallels South Capitol Street and covers over 200 acres. The area of this section of the park, however, which contains the historic remains of Fort Greble, is confined to the southernmost one-third of the section. The remaining two-thirds is given over to recreational areas and equipment for the public, and does not now nor has ever contained any part of the historic fortification. The distance from Galveston Street to Chesapeake is very nearly 1000 feet, with the historic area occupying the 350 feet nearest to the line of Galveston Street.

18. Fort Foote is located at Rozier's Bluff, in Prince Georges County, Maryland, on the east bank of the Potomac River, six miles south of Washington, D.C., and one mile south east of Alexandria, Virginia. The area today owned by the National Park Service corresponds to the Civil War limits of Fort Foote which were transferred from the army to civilian control. That boundary is indicated by the broken line on the accompanying US map, and highlighted in yellow and red. A sprawling complex of fort structures, guns, barracks, parade grounds, etc., Fort Foote had a structure of one sort or another at virtually every extremity of the compound. Where the remains have been destroyed, those areas have now been converted to recreational park use, but the historic area is still a sprawling one extending from the river bank storehouses to the parade grounds a quarter mile away. The whole of the park then should be considered a historic zone. It is bounded by the Potomac River on the west side, and by a surveyor's line on the other two sides of the roughly-triangular Fort Foote property. The surveyor's line begins at the northern end of the property, at a point just south and west of BM8, and runs south

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and southeast with the contour lines and roughly parallel to, and generally west of, the water course running into the valley. The boundary line continues south beyond the point where Fort Foote Road adjoins the property, and then parallels that road, just west of it, to a point along Fort Foote Road where the line meets the adjacent private property shown on the map. The line then turns at a right angle and goes back to the river, to the west, to complete, with the shoreline, the perimeter of the property.

19. Fort Marcy is located near the south bank of the Potomac, just west of the boundary line between Arlington and Fairfax Counties, in Fairfax County, Virginia. It is immediately north of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and immediately south of Chain Bridge Road. The large area of earthwork remains is bounded by a square, 350 feet on a side, placed so that the point where the diagonals of the square cross is at the same point as the center of the earthwork fort. No structures contributing to the significance of Fort Marcy lie outside this boundary square. It is a well-preserved fort with its parapet walls very distinct, as well as its protective ditch. None of the structures enclosed by those walls, barracks and magazines, remains, except for the well which is now covered by a concrete slab. The site is in good-to-excellent condition, although overgrown with both shrubs/weeds and trees.

In contrast to an earlier nomination of the Defenses of Washington, this nomination defines Fort Reno and Fort Slocum as sites only with no historic remains and adds Fort Marcy and Fort Foote. Fort Marcy in Virginia and Fort Foote in Maryland join the seventeen District of Columbia forts to complete the number of Fort Circle Parks owned and administered by the National Park Service.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> GEOLOGY/GEOHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICAL/HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
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		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Circle

At the opening of the Civil War in 1861, the Union Capital was virtually without protection the city not having been threatened since the invasion by the British in 1814. The city of forts thrown up around the capital during the war represents, collectively, an important remnant of the war. Although combative action was only seen at one of the forts, Fort Stevens, in July 1864, the circle doubtless played an important dissuasive role in the protection of that city which symbolized the Union and its cause.

History

When the Civil War began in April 1861, an altogether sanguine attitude prevailed in the Northern states, and, as much as anywhere, in the federal capital at Washington. A short and glorious war was anticipated by all, with little bloodshed to distract from the triumph of the Union's self-righteous abolitionism and the promise of a penitent defeated Confederacy. One of the well-known manifestations of that attitude was the country-club atmosphere at the Battle of First Manassas, in the Summer of 1861. It was a shocking experience for the ladies and gentlemen who had come out from Washington as spectators only to see the carnage on that battlefield, but to see the Confederate troops victorious. The precariousness of the city of Washington was immediately apparent, and a scheme for the construction of forts on the heights around the defenseless capital was immediately begun. By the end of the war, in 1865, these defenses consisted of 68 enclosed forts, batteries, having an aggregate perimeter of 13 miles, and emplacements for 1120 guns of which 807 cannon and 98 mortars were actually mounted. In addition, there were 93 unclosed batteries for field guns and 20 miles of rifle trenches connecting the main works.

On several occasions, Washington was within the grasp of the Confederate armies, but was never taken, partly because of the strength of the earthwork defenses of Washington. The only attack on Washington itself, General Jubal Early threatened to enter the city in July 1864, until repulsed at Fort Stevens, near Georgia Avenue.

A representative group of these Civil War fortifications, or the sites upon which they stood, have been acquired for preservation and/or development by the National Park Service. The accompanying list of 19 sites reveals the names and location of these sites as well as a description of their condition. They collectively comprise the essence of a National Register District.

MacLure, Stanley M., Fort Stanton, 1961-1962, 1961, Washington, D.C.
 Olszewski, George J., Fort Carroll and Grable, June 1970, Washington, D.C.
 Brown, Leonard E., Fort Stanton, Fort Pote and Battery Bicketts, May 1970, Washington, D.C.
 McCormick, Charles H., Forts Mahan, Chaplin, DePout, Davis, July 1967, Washington, D.C.
 Brown, Leonard E., Forts Perussv, Stevens and Totten, January 1968, Washington, D.C.
 Young, John M., Baker's Battery and Fort Lincoln, 1967, Washington, D.C.

1. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheets.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
District of Columbia		Prince Georges County, Maryland	
Fairfax County, Virginia			

2. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Dillon, Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Capital Parks

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

DATE

7/30/76

TELEPHONE

426-3760

STATE

District of Columbia

3. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES _____

NO _____

NONE _____

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is _____ National _____ State _____ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 80-6 Date 1863
Building Name Fort Foote
Location Fort Foote Road, Oxon Hill, Md.
Open to Public x yes no

Fort Foote is situated on a high bluff above the Potomac River, six miles south of Washington, D.C. The earthworks, although eroded, are plainly visible. Ten gun mounts are still in place. Two Rodman guns, unmounted, remain on the site. The concrete magazine is partially intact.

Fort Foote was the southernmost of the 68 forts and batteries built during the Civil War to defend Washington. It was part of the most powerful and elaborate system theretofore devised for the defense of any city. As a representative part of the system, Fort Foote has been designated for preservation and future development by the National Park Service.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Port Foote

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Port Foote Road

CITY, TOWN

Oxon Hill

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

P.G.

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☒ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

National Park Service

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Dept. of the Interior, 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington D.C.

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

National Park Service survey

DATE

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Capital Parks

CITY, TOWN

Washington D.C.

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☒ RUINS ^{partly} restored☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE _____

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Foote is situated on a high bluff above the Potomac River, six miles south of Washington, D.C. The earthworks, although eroded, are plainly visible. Ten gun mounts are still in place. Two Rodman guns, unmounted, remain on the site. The concrete magazine is partially intact.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

 SPECIFIC DATES 1863

 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Foote was the southernmost of the 68 forts and batteries built during the Civil War to defend Washington. It was part of the most powerful and elaborate system theretofore devised for the defense of any city. As a representative part of the system, Fort Foote has been designated for preservation and future development by the National Park Service.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Defenses of Washington, 1861-1865, by Stanley W. McClure, 1961.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Margaret W. Cook

ORGANIZATION

P.G. Historical and Cultural Trust

DATE

May 1979

STREET & NUMBER

9110 Brandywine Rd.

TELEPHONE

599-6776

CITY OR TOWN

Clinton, Md.

STATE

Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1763243507

PHE 306

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Foote					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: Fort Foote Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Oxon Hill					
STATE Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC			STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites in the Bi-County Region					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission					
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue					
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring			STATE: Maryland		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site consists of earth works and restored gun-mounts. The earth works are largely overgrown with shrubs and trees.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

A. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1864

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

lasophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Foote was designed as part of the defenses for the Capital City during the Civil War. The earthworks, designed to withstand attacks by rifled ordnance, replaced Fort Washington as the defensive outpost on the Potomac River approach to Washington.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC	DATE 19 Nov 73
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

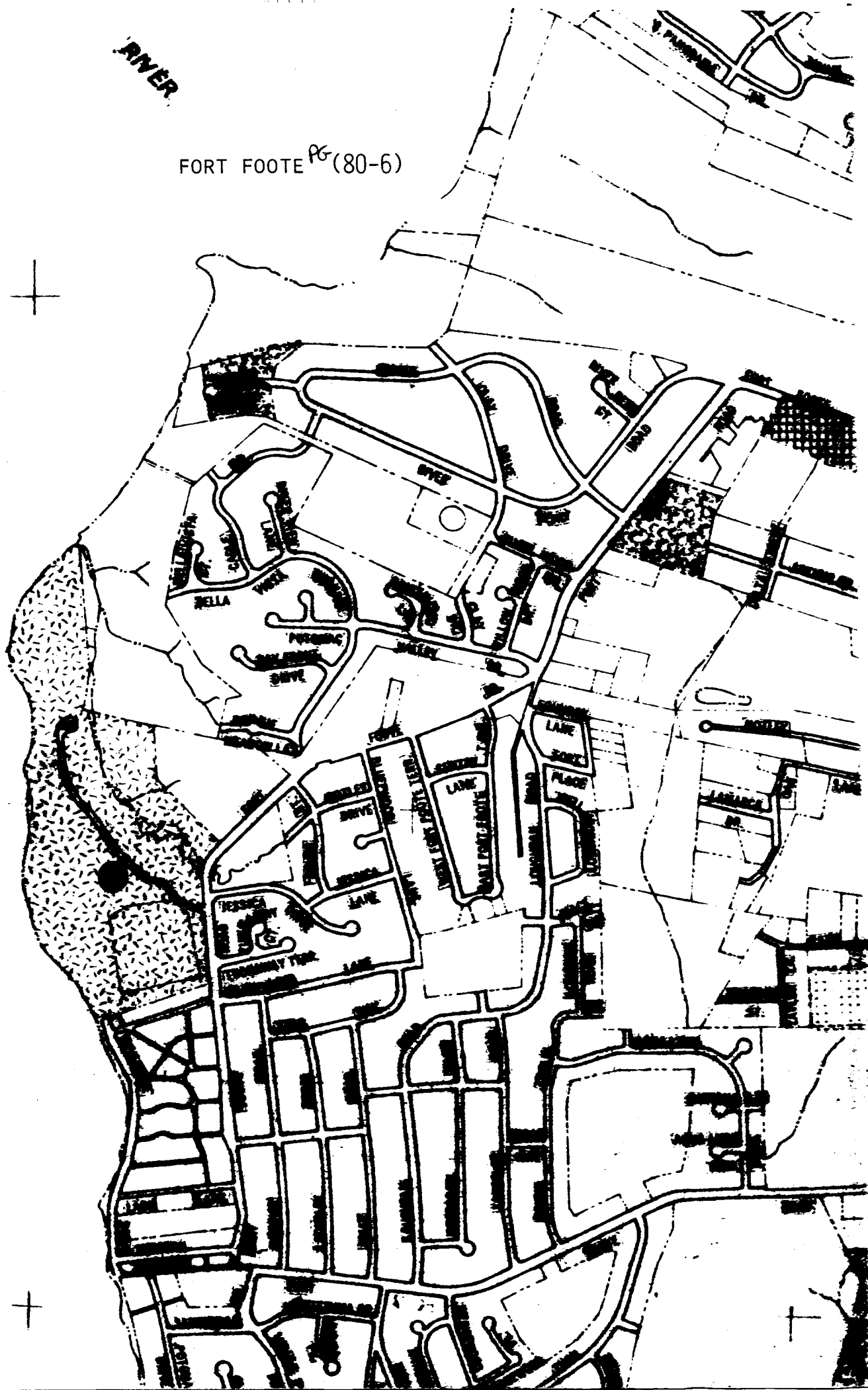
National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

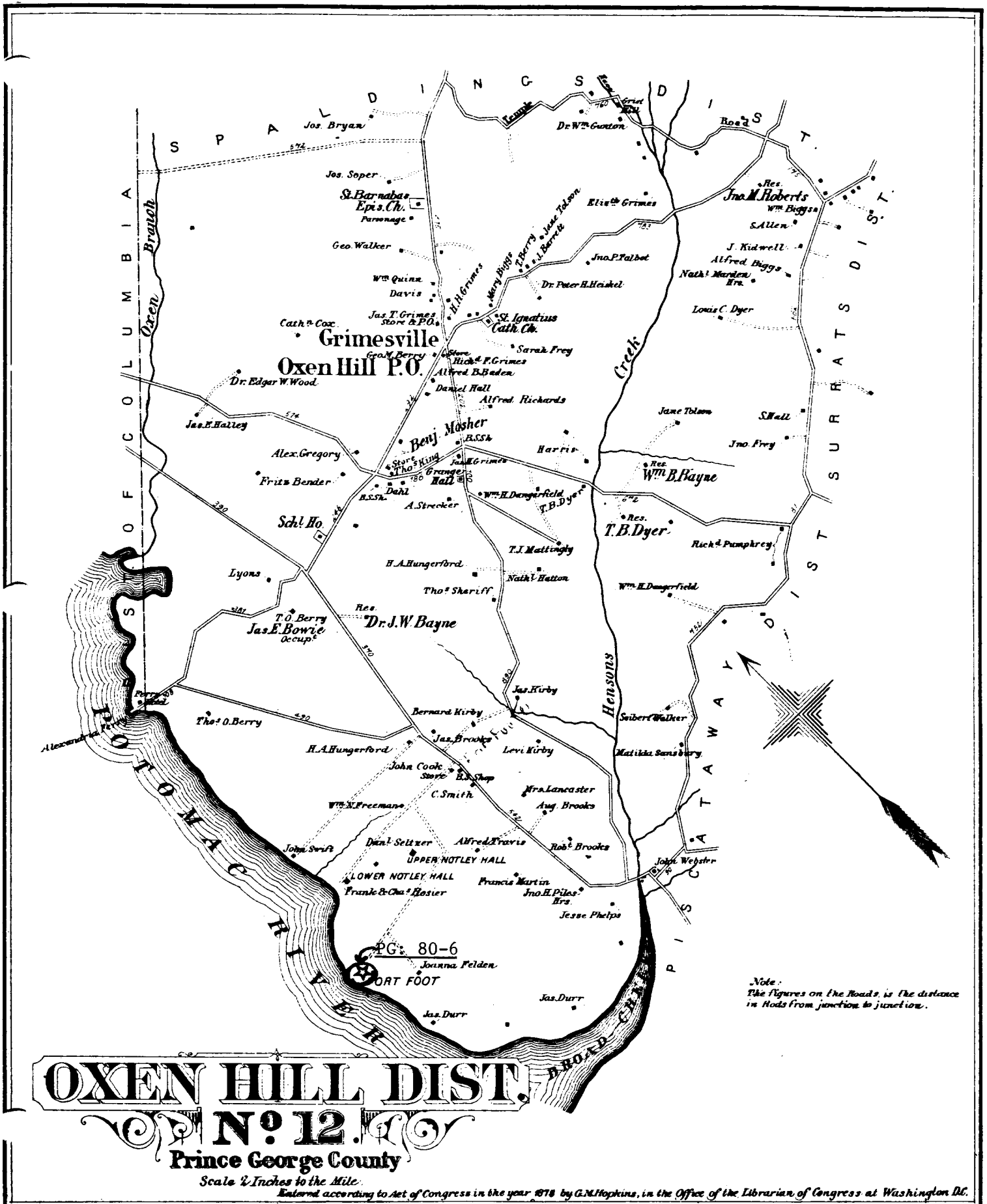
Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

RIVER

FORT FOOTE PG (80-6)

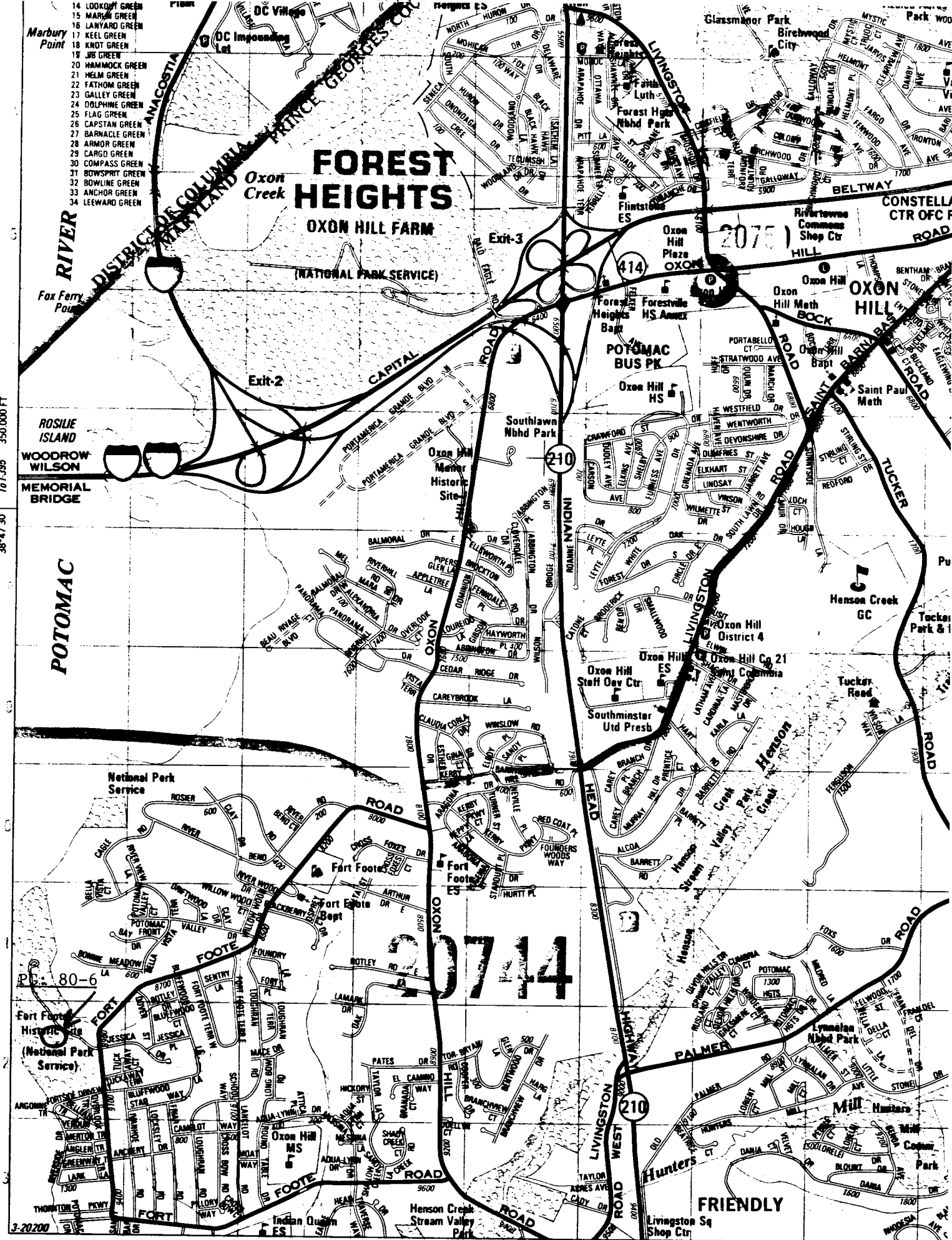




See E's "NORTHERN VIRGINIA STREET MAP" For Continuation
38°47'30" Tol 395 350,000 FT

MD GRID 340,000 FT

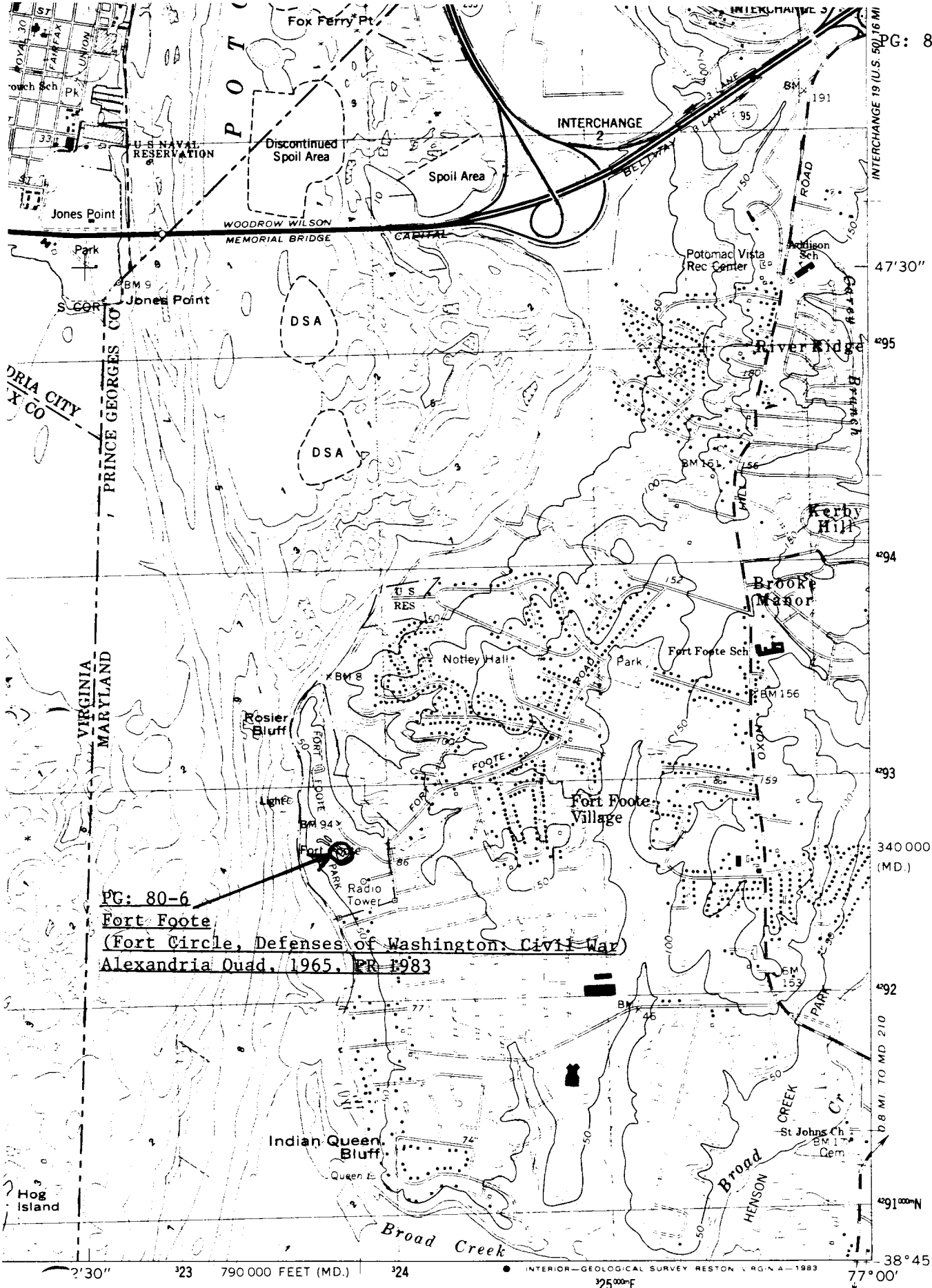
28



Feet	Meters
1	.3048
2	.6096
3	.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by .3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808



Exposed at low tide








DEPTH GRADIENT

Maximum depth

PG: 80-6
Fort Foote
(Fort Circle, Defenses of Washington, Civil War)
Alexandria Quad, 1965, PR 1983

(PISCATAWAY)
566' III NW

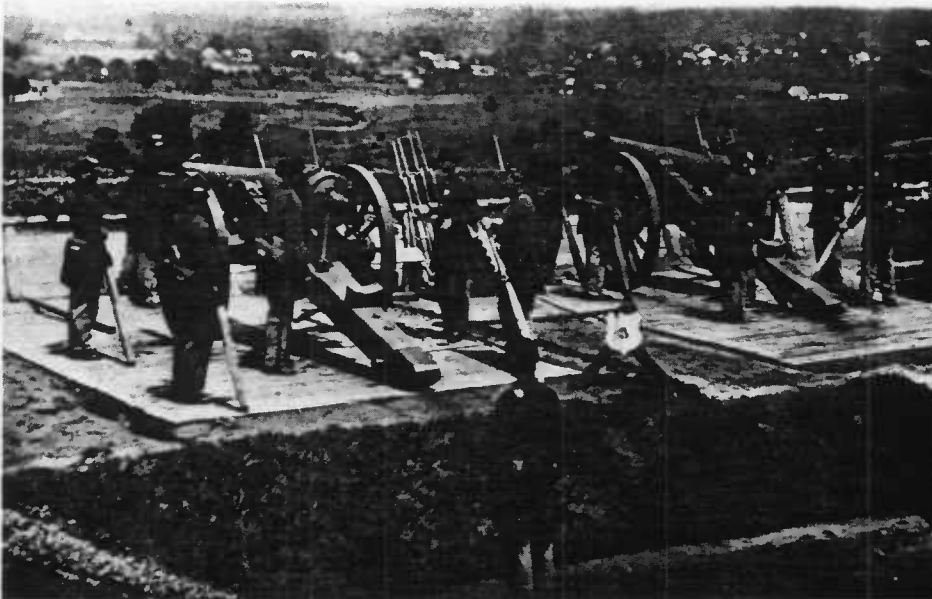
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty  Light-duty 
Medium-duty  Unimproved dirt 
 Interstate Route  U. S. Route  State Route

Virta, Alan

1984 Prince George's County, a Pictorial History.

Norfolk: Donning Company. (Upper photo.)



A ring of forts was built around Washington to defend the city. Battery Jamison, part of the Fort Lincoln complex, was in Prince George's County; so was Fort Foote on the Potomac River, whose large guns, with those of Fort Washington downstream, protected against attack by river. This undated photo of the ramparts of Fort Foote was taken sometime in the late nineteenth century. Courtesy of the National Archives

During the Civil War, the guns defending Washington pointed out toward Prince George's County. These are troops of the Third Regiment, Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, at Fort Lincoln, overlooking Bladensburg. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division



NAME FORT FOOTE - EARTHWORKS PG.80-6 (Defenses of Washington)

LOCATION " " Rd OXON HILL, Md

FACADE

PHOTO TAKEN 11/19/73 MDWYER